

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

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Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A personal smart pointer device capable of interfacing with a computer device for enabling a user to interface with an application executing on said computer device, said pointer device comprising:

a memory storage device for enabling storage of personalized user preferences relating to user customized aspects of said application executing on a first ~~computer~~ computing device;

a control mechanism for controlling transfer of said personalized user preferences from said first ~~computer~~ computing device to said memory storage device for storage therein when said pointer device is interfaced with said first ~~computer~~ computing device; and

a mechanism for interfacing with a second ~~computer~~ computing device, and in response to entering a same user application executing on said second computing device, said control mechanism further initiating transfer of said personalized user preferences from said memory storage device to said same application for altering said user application in accordance with said user customized aspects, wherein said pointer device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of a first computer device to subsequent personalized use of same applications executing on second ~~computer~~ computing devices.

Claim 2 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said second computing device retains ~~further comprising mechanism for retaining~~ original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device prior to altering said user application with said user customized aspects, and restores said ~~mechanism further restoring said~~ original user application preferences for said user application after disconnecting said pointer device from said second device.

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Claim 4 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said customized aspects of user applications are stored in associated preference files in said memory storage device.

Claim 5 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said interface mechanism comprises a communication device for receiving said personalized ~~data~~ user preferences from said first computing device and, for transmitting said personalized ~~data~~ user preferences to said second computing device.

Claim 6 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said communication device implements a universal serial bus (USB) communications protocol.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said communication device transfers signals including said personalized ~~data~~ user preferences according to a wireless communications protocol.

Claim 8 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said wireless communications protocol includes a BlueTooth radio frequency (RF) communications standard.

Claim 9 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said wireless communications protocol includes an IEEE 802.11 communications standard.

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Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a touch-sensitive panel interface responsive to user entry comprising one or more graffiti characters each representing an application to be launched in said personal smart pointer device.

Claim 11 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising password protection mechanism for enabling user to use said pointer device.

Claim 12 (Currently Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Canceled)

Claim 14 (Original): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a first and second device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The personal smart pointer device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control mechanism ~~includes mechanism for recognizing~~ recognizes a like application being executed on said second computing device and automatically ~~initiating~~ initiates said transfer of personalized data user preferences thereto.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for customizing software applications in computing devices via a mouse device, said method comprising:

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- a) receiving personalized data user preferences relating to customized aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first computing device;
  - b) storing said personalized data user preferences in a memory storage device provided in said mouse device;
  - c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data user preferences to a like user application capable of executing in a second computing device; and,
  - d) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications in second computing devices.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein prior to step d), the step of retaining original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein after use of said like application on said second device by said user, the step of: restoring said original user application preferences for said like application on said second computing device after disconnecting said mouse from said second computing device.

Claim 19 (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said receiving step a) and transferring step d) is accomplished in accordance with a wireless communications protocol.

Claim 20 (Previously amended): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein a first and second computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said transferring step c) further comprises the step of: recognizing a like application being executed on said second computing device and automatically initiating said transfer of personalized data user preferences.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for customizing software applications executing in computing devices, said method steps including the steps of:

a) receiving personalized data user preferences relating to customized aspects of a user application capable of executing in a first computing device;

b) storing said personalized data user preferences in a memory storage device provided in a mouse device;

c) subsequently transferring said stored personalized data user preferences to a like user application capable of executing in a second computing device; and,

d) altering said like user application executing in said second computing device in accordance with said customized aspects, wherein said mouse device is transportable for transferring user customized aspects of many user applications of first computing devices to facilitate use of like applications in second computing devices.

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Claim 23 (Currently amended): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein prior to step d), the step of retaining original user application preferences currently existing in said second computing device.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 23, wherein after use of said like application on said second computing device by said user, the step of restoring said original user application preferences for said like application on said second computing device after disconnecting said mouse from said second computing device.

Claim 25 (Original): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said receiving step a) and transferring step d) is accomplished in accordance with a wireless communications protocol.

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Claim 26 (Previously Amended): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein a first and second computing device comprises one of: a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a cellular phone, and a network device.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said transferring step c) further comprises the step of: recognizing a like application being executed on said second device and automatically initiating said transfer of personalized data user preferences.

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